

DIOCESE OF MADISON
TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

ANNUAL CLUSTER EVALUATION

**PLEASE ADAPT THIS TO INCLUDE
ALL CLUSTER DIRECTIVES AND GENERAL DIRECTIVES
THIS REPORT IS DUE ANNUALLY
TO THE IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION BY MAY 15**

DATE: May 15, 2010

CLUSTER ID 350

CLUSTER PARISHES: Holy Family (LaValle)
St. Boniface (Lime Ridge)
St. Patrick (Loreto)
Sacred Heart (Reedsburg)

As a cluster we have completed the following objectives or action steps based on our plan to implement Bishop Morlino's Cluster and General Directives:

General Directive One: Offer opportunities within the cluster to work toward increasing vocations.

1. Every parish in the cluster includes a prayer for vocations in our General Intercessions at least once a month
2. All parishes dedicate one hour of Eucharistic Adoration to pray for vocations each time Eucharistic Exposition is offered in the cluster.

General Directive Two : All parishes in the cluster support the Catholic schools within the cluster.

1. Fund-raising events were held in or are planned to be held in all four parishes
2. Cluster parishes whose students attend a Catholic school in the cluster have sent a parish portion of tuition for their students.
3. Mike Rocha, principal of Sacred Heart Catholic School, spoke to parishioners at St. Boniface, St. Patrick and Holy Family about Catholic schools, their offerings, tuition, etc.

General Directive Three: Engage the Cluster Implementation team with the parish staffs and pastoral councils in providing regular updates to the parishes and to the diocese.

1. Subcommittees have been created to carry out the work of the Implementation Plan.
2. Our implementation team has been working regularly to oversee the implementation of this year's plans and to involve them in carrying out the cluster work.
3. We have communicated all cluster work in bulletins, on the web site, and in handouts and short talks for our parishioners.

General Directives Four, Five & Six: Support the implementation of ParishSOFT, Quickbooks and Churchwerks School Information System in all parishes / schools in the diocese.

Still no action has been taken on any of these since we were told by the diocese to wait until we are contacted about implementing these pieces of software.

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General Directive Seven: To actively participate in a diocesan wide comprehensive school study to promote and increase our diocesan commitment to Catholic education as outlined in the USCCB publication “Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium.”

1. Online surveys have been answered by committee members and parishioners.
2. Diocesan meetings involving school personnel, have been attended.

Cluster Directive One (Changed in 2010): St. Patrick, Loreto is currently linked with Holy Family and St. Boniface and will work in partnership with Sacred Heart, Reedsburg.

St. Patrick, Loreto, is no longer planning a merger with Cluster 230. It is linked with St. Boniface and Holy Family (who are partnered with Sacred Heart). Loreto has been active in all Cluster 350 planning and implementation.

Cluster Directives Two & Three: (1) Enhance the quality of parish life by encouraging collaboration and sharing of resources among parishes and (2) form a strong working partnership across all programs in the Cluster

Liturgical, Sacramental & Devotional Life

1. We have posted all worship opportunities in all cluster parish bulletins and on a parish web site. Cluster parishioners attend Mass and devotions at any parish in the cluster.
2. We are sharing music selections for liturgies with all four parishes
3. We offered cluster Anointing of the Sick liturgies twice annually in addition to individually at some of the parishes.
4. The Sacrament of Confirmation was a cluster event held in the Fall of 2009.
5. The Divine Mercy Novena was prayed communally as a cluster and ended with a pot-luck celebration on Divine Mercy Sunday.

RCIA

1. The RCIA program (begun in the fall of 2009 and continued through spring of 2010) included candidates from the cluster churches and was facilitated by a deacon and priest within the cluster.
2. All cluster RCIA elect and candidates received the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil in one church in the cluster

Religious Education (includes Cluster Directive 5: To implement a training program for catechists and the sharing of catechists among parishes)

1. Children from all four parishes were invited to participate in this summer’s Bible School session to be held at Sacred Heart.
2. Catechists have met during the winter for Mass followed by hospitality; they also met to share ideas for the catechetical programs.

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Adult Education

1. "Catholicism for Dummies," a course on the Catholic faith, was offered from September through May for all cluster members. Members from across cluster parishes attended.
2. "Catholics Returning Home," a six-week program for baptized Catholics who have not been practicing their faith, was offered to all cluster members. six participated and five received the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation at Easter.

Justice and Peace

1. We now have only one combined Justice & Peace group for all four parishes.
2. We have jointly operated a Mobile Food Pantry in the cluster from April through October, and will do so again this year.
3. We have held "fair trade" sales from Catholic Relief Services
4. We have spent the year focusing on "the Sacred Act of Eating. " During this time we have:
 - (a) prepared and helped serve a community meal to introduce local, seasonal foods to the community.
 - (b) formed a community of area producers and created a list of local, seasonal foods, produced sustainably
 - (c) linked agricultural producers with local consumers (including purchases from a local hospital and parish school) to encourage nutritious eating
5. We publish a weekly article on current social justice issues and Catholic Social Teaching each weekend in ALL cluster parish bulletins.
6. We held a weekend of fund-raising in all four parishes for a local food pantry.

Parish Nurse Ministry

1. Parish nurses continue to discuss ways to minister to all cluster parishes in terms of health screenings, educational endeavors (e.g. grief and mourning) and potential future projects.
2. Held monthly blood pressure screenings after weekend Masses
3. Published a monthly article on health-related issues for parish bulletins.

Pastoral Councils (includes Cluster Directive Six: To Have Pastoral Councils meet together regularly for planning and sharing) Our joint Pastoral Council met in July 2009 and January 2010. Cluster work was discussed and implemented.

Cluster Directive Four: To continue to search for ways to provide youth ministry for all parishes in the Cluster.

St. Patrick (Loreto) has organized a once-a-month Youth Ministry gathering for all parish youth in Grades 6,7, 8. All middle-school-aged students were invited to attend; however most students attending are from St Patrick parish.

Cluster Directive Seven: When the number of priests in Cluster 350 is reduced from 2 to 1:

[This is one area that we have not dealt with since the diocese gave permission for St. Patrick's to link with St. Boniface and Holy Family. They did not give the green light for our proposed merger between St. Patrick's and St. Boniface.]

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The collaborative effort we are most proud of is:

Our Cluster Justice & Peace group has shown how well we can work as a cluster through combining our efforts and including the cluster-wide communities in ministering to those in need and working for justice for all. We are also proud of the integration of the two deacons who are from one parish but whose ministry extends to all parishes in the cluster.

The place where we struggled the most was:

Our biggest struggle involves communicating the work of the cluster to all members of the cluster parishes. Even though many sub-groups are actively working at implementing our cluster plans, those parishioners who are not actively involved in parish work don't always know what is going on. We post our reports on the parish web site, update parishioners through weekly bulletins, have spoken at 4-minute catecheses after Masses and have brought this work to our commissions. However, we still meet people who say, "Is anything going on with the cluster?" Maybe they won't hear the messages until something like Mass times change.

Describe how your work to implement the Bishop's Directives is making a difference in the cluster? In the Diocese? In the world?

Working together now seems very natural. Our diverse backgrounds are seen as gifts (helping us to understand and accept new viewpoints). This is truly a real-life example of living out St. Paul's words: "We are many parts, we are all one body."

As we continue to implement the Bishop's Directives we need the assistance from Diocesan Offices in the following areas:

We will need training sessions for ParishSOFT, Quickbooks, and Churchwerks School Information System.

We would also like to see more regional training for parish members (like the ones given for schools and for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, only in other areas). We have worked as a Cluster Team to evaluate our work and prepare this report in preparation for planning our cluster pastoral ministry for the upcoming year.